

REMARKS

Applicant has read and considered the Office Action dated August 31, 2004. Claims 1-20 have now been amended and remain pending.

In the Action, claims 1-20 were objected to. The Action stated that the term "ratchet-like" in the preamble of the claims is not entirely clear and appropriate correction is required. Applicant has amended claims 1-20 and has eliminated the objected to language. Applicant asserts that the claims are now clear and that the objection is traversed.

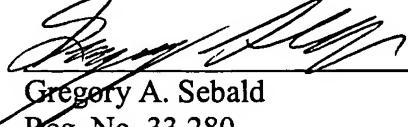
Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that the application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters. Applicant asserts that the claims are now in condition for allowance as the objection for the formal matters has been overcome.

A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's Representative at the 612.336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 10/27/04



Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280
GAS:PLSkaw